

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE FROM PANAMA.

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Among a small lot of reptiles collected by Mr. Frank E. Read at Bocas del Toro there is a specimen of a little snake which appears to be undescribed. Bocas del Toro is situated on a small island at one of the entrances to the bay of Chiriqui, on the Atlantic side and near the western extremity of the Republic of Panama.

MESOPELTIS LONGIFRENIS, new species.

Diagnosis.—A small unpaired postmental in contact with anterior lower labial only; median dorsal scale row not enlarged; loreal three times as long as high, entering eye; no preocular; ventrals 165; subcaudals 98; supralabials 8.

Habitat.—Panama.

Type-specimen.—Cat. No. 38750, U.S.N.M.; Bocas del Toro, Republic of Panama; Frank E. Read, collector.

Description of type-specimen.—Body only moderately compressed and slender; tail at vent suddenly diminishing both in height and width; eye moderate, with vertical pupil; rostral small, triangular, as high as wide, scarcely visible from above; internasals small, their suture less than one-half that between the prefrontals, descending low on the side of the face and entering the orbit broadly; frontal longer than wide, longer than distance from tip of snout, shorter than the parietals but longer than the suture between them, wider than supraoculars; nasal undivided, with a horizontally oval nostril; loreal very long, three times as long as high, entering eye below prefrontal; no preocular; two postoculars, upper largest; temporals 1+2; supralabials 8, fourth, fifth, and sixth entering eye, sixth largest; mental small, followed by a small postmental separating the first pair of lower labials and also the mental from the anterior chin-shields; 8 lower labials, first five in contact with anterior chin-shield; anterior chin-shields large, followed by one on the right side and

two on the left; behind these a wide plate somewhat wider than the adjacent first ventral; 15 rows of smooth scales without pores, median row not sensibly larger than the others; 165 ventrals; anal single; subcaudals 98. Color (in alcohol) brownish gray with a median series of about 42 pale brown ocelli, edged with black, on the body, the last six descending to the ventrals so as to form transverse bands, many of the ocelli, especially anteriorly, divided medially, the halves more or less alternating; on the two or three outer scale rows a series of similar spots below the dorsal ones, each edged in front and behind by a blackish border, between which a whitish interval; tail above with about 17 alternating pale brown and brownish gray bands with a small whitish spot in the middle of the latter on the sides; head and nape dark brownish gray with indistinct marblings of pale brown and yellowish; third, fourth, and fifth labials marked with whitish; underside pale with dark brownish gray dots and spots which tend to form two parallel series on the ventrals.

Dimensions.

| | mm. |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Total length..... | 488 |
| Tip of snout to vent..... | 335 |
| Vent to tip of tail..... | 153 |

Remarks.—The present species differs from *Mesopeltis dimidiatus* (Guenther) and *M. sanniolus* Cope in having a much smaller unpaired postmental which is only in contact with the first pair of lower labials, and in a longer snout with a much longer and lower loreal. In the coloration of the back and sides it resembles Cope's *Leptognathus argus* which, however, has a short snout and, moreover, possesses preoculars. From *M. sanniolus* it differs furthermore by having a larger number of subcaudals, and from *M. dimidiatus*, as well as from *L. argus*, by the much smaller number of ventrals.